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ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Anwarul Chowdhury (Bangladesh), on the basis of informal consultations

# Status of the least developed countries

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 52/210 of 18 December 1997 which included, inter alia, a reference to an assessment of the usefulness of a vulnerability index as a criterion for designation of the least developed countries,

Noting that the requested assessment has not been completed,

Welcoming the proposals to continue the work on improvements in criteria and methodology for designation of the least developed countries,[1]

Taking note of the content of the letter of the Prime Minister of Vanuatu, which was circulated as a document of the Economic and Social Council,[2] advancing reasons to support his position that the review of Vanuatu's status should be deferred to the year 2000,

1. Reaffirms the need for such an assessment to be made in respect of a decision on the graduation of Vanuatu from the list of the least developed countries;

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[1] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 14 (E/1998/34), chap. IV, sect. A.

[2] E/1998/89, annex.

2. Notes that the Economic and Social Council will discuss the work programme of the Committee for Development Planning during its organizational session of 1999 and in this regard stresses the need for the Committee to include in its report to the Council at its substantive session of 1999 an assessment of the usefulness of a vulnerability index as a criterion for designation of the least developed countries and consideration of the work of all relevant international agencies on the vulnerability of small States;

3. Decides to postpone its consideration of the graduation of Vanuatu until the above-mentioned report of the Committee for Development Planning has been submitted and to take a decision accordingly.

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